

Helping Children Get Ready to Read

- ✿ Even when your children are babies, talk with them about many things. Use language in happy ways. Use words to discuss ideas and events. Use words to solve problems, tell stories, and ask questions. Recite rhymes and sing simple songs. Talk about things that have happened. Describe new things. Chat with friends or talk on the phone. This builds strong basic language skills for reading and learning later on.
- ✿ Read to your children. Read often and regularly. This is the best thing parents can do to help their children read successfully.
- ✿ Make your home as full of reading materials as you can. Regular trips to the library can help you do this.
- ✿ Give your children a variety of healthy experiences. This builds background to help them understand things they read later in books and study at school.
- ✿ Let children see you read and write as part of your life. This shows that reading is important and pleasant.
- ✿ Find imaginative ways to limit TV viewing for the whole family. Try keeping toys, games, puzzles, or books near the places where the parent does household tasks.

Going to the library is a low-cost way to help your children's reading ability. It can also make your children's lives more interesting. Many libraries will issue library cards to children. Even if you don't want to borrow books, the library is an interesting place. As your children change and grow, you can use the library to look at and try out new kinds of books, magazines, and even computer programs. Many libraries also offer activities, programs, and events that will help make reading fun for your children. If reading is fun, children will read more, and if they read more, they will become better readers.

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